

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
31 May 1984

FILE ONLY

NICARAGUA/
BOMBING

JENNINGS: There was an attempted assassination today against the leader of the Nicaraguan rebels. The bomb was intended for Eden Pastora. Instead, it killed five others attending his press conference, including an American reporter. Many more were injured. Here's our Latin America bureau chief, Anne Garrels.

GARRELS: The press conference took place on the Nicaraguan side of the San Juan River one mile from Costa Rica. Pastora yelled 'What happened?' after the bomb ripped through the shack which served as his headquarters. This was the only way they could get back out last night, by boat. It, it was several hours before they could be picked up by ambulances and taken to a hospital. Twenty-eight people in all were injured, burned, lacerated. Among them, Reed Miller of the Associated Press and Susan Morgan of Newsweek. Eden Pastora received shrapnel wounds and was taken to a hospital in the capital, where he is now under protective custody. The Costa Rican government says it plans to deport him as soon as he's well enough to travel. Pastora, once a hero of the Sandinista revolution that ousted Somoza, now uses Costa Rica as a base for his CIA-backed Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, who are fighting the Sandinistas from the south. According to aides, he had called the press conference to criticize his troops' decision to merge with another group of CIA-backed rebels fighting the Sandinistas from Honduras, a move urged by the CIA. It's not clear who placed the bomb. According to Jose D'Avila, a rebel spokesman, it was the long arm of leftist terrorists in Nicaragua, not the first time he says the Sandinistas have tried to kill Pastora. Five died in the blast, including one American, Linda Frazier, a local reporter here. Her husband, Joseph Frazier, a correspondent for the Associated Press in San Jose, flew back from an assignment in Nicaragua this morning to break the news to his 10-year-old son. Anne Garrels, ABC News, San Jose, Costa Rica.